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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 13, 2001

REQUEST OF

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY
and the
SHENANDOAH GAS DIVISION OF
WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE010369

For clarification or waiver and for
additional time to comply with the
Rules Governing Retail Access to
Competitive Energy Services

ORDER PERMITTING RESPONSES TO REQUEST

On June 19, 2001, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") entered an order in Case No. PUE010013 adopting Rules Governing Retail Access to Competitive Energy Services ("Retail Access Rules"), 20 VAC 5-312-10 et seq., effective August 1, 2001, to be applicable to the implementation of full or phased-in retail access to competitive energy services in the service territory of each local distribution company.

In adopting the Retail Access Rules, the Commission noted that some parties may require additional time to comply with certain provisions. We therefore directed any parties needing additional time to comply with certain of the Retail Access Rules to submit requests in writing to the Commission on or before July 9, 2001. Each request was required to: (1) identify

each rule for which additional time is needed to comply, and the reasons for such request; and (2) state how much additional time is desired to comply with the specified rules. The Retail Access Rules also provide that a request for waiver of any provisions of the Retail Access Rules shall be considered by the Commission on a case-by-case basis. Any waiver may be granted upon such terms and conditions as the Commission may impose.

On July 9, 2001, Washington Gas Light Company ("Washington Gas") and the Shenandoah Gas Division of Washington Gas Light Company ("Shenandoah Gas") (collectively the "Companies") filed a request for clarification or waiver and for additional time within which the Company must comply with certain of the Retail Access Rules.

The Companies request clarification on whether the Retail Access Rules are wholly inapplicable to the provision of service to customers receiving interruptible gas service, and if so, the Companies request waiver of the Retail Access Rules as they would be applicable to its interruptible customers. The Companies also request waiver of 20 VAC 5-312-90 I 8 a, which requires a meter identification number on all customer bills, arguing that it would cause confusion due to multiple identification numbers shown on the meter. If the Commission does not waive this requirement, Washington Gas requests an extension of time to comply until December 31, 2002, for

consolidated bills and until December 31, 2003, for all other bills, and Shenandoah Gas requests an extension of time until December 31, 2003.

In addition, arguing that changes in rates occur almost monthly, the Companies request clarification on whether 20 VAC 5-312-90 I 8 d requires that notice of changes in base rates as a result of a base rate case be provided on customer bills, rather than all changes in rates. If the provision pertains to all changes, the Companies request a waiver to the extent the changes are not in base rates resulting from a base rate proceeding. If the Commission does not clarify or waive this requirement, Washington Gas requests until December 31, 2002, for compliance on consolidated bills and until December 31, 2003, for all other bills. Shenandoah Gas requests an extension of time until December 31, 2003.

The Companies argue that they need an extension of time to comply with certain other provisions. The Companies state that in regard to 20 VAC 5-312-60 B 3 they cannot comply because they began their permanent retail access program on April 1, 2001, and the Companies request that they be allowed to make the initial mass list available by November 30, 2001. Washington Gas requests an extension of time until December 31, 2002, on consolidated bills to comply with 20 VAC 5-312-90 I 4 requiring itemized non-routine charges and fees. The Companies also state

that they have approximately three months of billing stock in inventory and would therefore request an extension until October 1, 2001, to comply with the standard billing terminology requirements of 5 VAC 20-312-90 J 1.

The Companies also state that they must make substantial programming changes in their billing systems to include a customer's monthly energy consumption for the previous 12-month period and would require until December 31, 2003, to comply with 5 VAC 20-312-90 J 2. These substantial programming changes in the billing systems also lead Washington Gas to request until December 31, 2002, and Shenandoah Gas to request until December 31, 2003, to comply with 20 VAC 5-312-90 L requiring certain other information on bills. Washington Gas requires until December 31, 2002, on consolidated bills and until December 31, 2003, for all other bills, and Shenandoah Gas requires until December 31, 2003, to comply with the billing information required by 20 VAC 5-312-90 M. Finally, Washington Gas requests an extension of time until December 31, 2003 to comply with 20 VAC 5-312-90 N on consolidated bills.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the request, we find that this matter should be docketed and that interested parties and Staff should have the opportunity to respond to the Companies' request. We also find that the Companies should be permitted to respond to any comments filed in response to their request.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter shall be docketed as Case No. PUE010369.

(2) The Companies shall promptly make a copy of its request available at no charge. Copies of the request may be obtained by contacting counsel for the Companies, Donald R. Hayes, Esquire, 1100 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20080. The request may also be reviewed during regular business hours at the Commission's Document Control Center, First Floor, Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

(3) On or before July 27, 2001, interested parties and Staff may file responses to the Companies' request with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. A copy of a response shall be simultaneously served on counsel for the Companies the address set forth above and on Commission Staff.

(4) On or before August 6, 2001, the Companies may reply to any comments filed by interested parties and Commission Staff with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. A copy of a reply shall be simultaneously served on the interested party and on Commission Staff.

(5) This matter is continued for further orders of the Commission.